

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1-2 and adds new claims 4-8. Claim 3 had been previously withdrawn according to the Restriction Requirement. Therefore, claims 1-2 and 4-8 are all the claims pending in the application.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

I. Analysis of Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner has indicated an insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the entire area” in the fourth sub-paragraph of claim 1. As Applicant amends claim 1 as in the Amendments, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

II. Analysis of Claim Rejection under Nagao

The Examiner alleges that claim 1 is anticipated by Fig. 2 and Example 5 (col. 13) of Nagao because the cited part also teaches the master information carrier comprising a substrate and a magnetic layer coated with a protective coating as in claim 1. It is further alleged that claim 1 is alternatively rendered obvious because Nagao’s disclosure of coating thickness (5 nm) inherently discloses the coating energy range of 57-69 mN/m of claim 1.

Applicant would submit, however, that claim 1 is not anticipated by or rendered obvious over Nagao. It should be noted that the present invention, as recited in claim 1, has been made to address exfoliation of the magnetic layer; exfoliation on side edges as well as an upper surface.

Nagao’s Fig. 2 may teach a protection coating layer for a durable magnetic medium. However, Nagao’s disclosure stops at an uppermost layer coating, not advancing to the extent of claim 1 where the magnetic layer is further protected by coating not only the upper surface but

also a side surface of the magnetic layer. Thus, Nagao fails to teach at least this feature of claim

1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 2 should be patentable at least over Nagao.

III. Analysis of Claim Rejection under Saito

Claim 1 is also allegedly anticipated by Saito. The coating energy limitation of claim 1 is regarded again as being inherent by Saito's disclosure of coating thickness (50-1,000 Å which equals 5-100 nm).

Reviewing Saito, the protective film in Saito (Fig. 8) appears to provide a better protection to a magnetic film compared to the equivalent of Nagao since the protective film here can be viewed as covering the magnetic film completely. However, Saito's protective film here is limited to the upper surface of the magnetic film embedded in the silicon substrate; the side surface is not protected by the protective film. Thus, Saito also does not teach the protective coating of claim 1 which covers a side surface of the magnetic layer.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 2 should be also patentable over Saito.

IV. New Claims

New claims 4-8 are submitted for additional coverage of the invention based on the specification.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

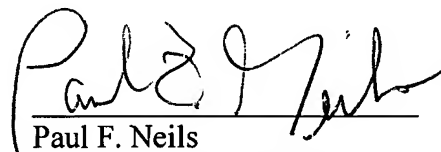
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 10/779,850

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q79919

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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